



FH

**STATE OF WISCONSIN
Division of Hearings and Appeals**

In the Matter of

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

DECISION

MPA/171513

PRELIMINARY RECITALS

Pursuant to a petition filed January 20, 2016, under Wis. Stat. §49.45(5), and Wis. Admin. Code §HA 3.03(1), to review a decision by the Division of Health Care Access and Accountability in regard to Medical Assistance (MA), a telephonic hearing was held on April 28, 2016, at Elkhorn, Wisconsin.

The issue for determination is whether petitioner's appeal was timely filed.

There appeared at that time and place the following persons:

PARTIES IN INTEREST:

Petitioner:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Respondent:

Department of Health Services
1 West Wilson Street, Room 651
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

By written submittal of: [REDACTED], MA CCC-SLP
Division of Health Care Access and Accountability
1 West Wilson Street, Room 272
P.O. Box 309
Madison, WI 53707-0309

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:

Kelly Cochrane
Division of Hearings and Appeals

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Petitioner is a resident of Walworth County.
2. On November 25, 2015, the Department of Health Services sent a written notice of negative action to the petitioner.

3. The petitioner filed a hearing request that was received by the Division of Hearings and Appeals on January 20, 2016.
4. The negative action in this case was denial of prior authorization (PA) for speech-language therapy.

DISCUSSION

A hearing officer can only hear cases on the merits if there is jurisdiction to do so. There is no jurisdiction if a hearing request is untimely. An appeal of a negative action by the Department of Health Services concerning MA must be filed within 45 days of the date of the action. Wisconsin Stat. §49.45(5); Income Maintenance Manual §3.3.1. This deadline and the process on how to appeal was also provided in the negative notice issued to the petitioner. The petitioner's appeal was filed 56 days after the date of the action. Thus, it was untimely, and no jurisdiction exists for considering the merits of the case.

I add, assuming petitioner finds this decision unfair, that it is the long-standing position of the Division of Hearings & Appeals that the Division's hearing examiners lack the authority to render a decision on equitable arguments. See, Wisconsin Socialist Workers 1976 Campaign Committee v. McCann, 433 F.Supp. 540, 545 (E.D. Wis.1977). This office must limit its review to the law as set forth in statutes, federal regulations, and administrative code provisions.

This does not prevent petitioner from requesting any future PA.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

There is no jurisdiction as the appeal is untimely.

THEREFORE, it is

ORDERED

That the petition is dismissed.

REQUEST FOR A REHEARING

You may request a rehearing if you think this decision is based on a serious mistake in the facts or the law or if you have found new evidence that would change the decision. Your request must be **received within 20 days after the date of this decision**. Late requests cannot be granted.

Send your request for rehearing in writing to the Division of Hearings and Appeals, 5005 University Avenue, Suite 201, Madison, WI 53705-5400 **and** to those identified in this decision as "PARTIES IN INTEREST." Your rehearing request must explain what mistake the Administrative Law Judge made and why it is important or you must describe your new evidence and explain why you did not have it at your first hearing. If your request does not explain these things, it will be denied.

The process for requesting a rehearing may be found at Wis. Stat. § 227.49. A copy of the statutes may be found online or at your local library or courthouse.

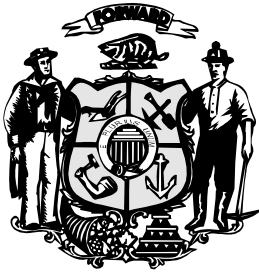
APPEAL TO COURT

You may also appeal this decision to Circuit Court in the county where you live. Appeals must be filed with the Court **and** served either personally or by certified mail on the Secretary of the Department of Health Services, 1 West Wilson Street, Room 651, Madison, Wisconsin 53703, **and** on those identified in this decision as "PARTIES IN INTEREST" **no more than 30 days after the date of this decision** or 30 days after a denial of a timely rehearing (if you request one).

The process for Circuit Court Appeals may be found at Wis. Stat. §§ 227.52 and 227.53. A copy of the statutes may be found online or at your local library or courthouse.

Given under my hand at the City of Milwaukee,
Wisconsin, this 3rd day of May, 2016

\sKelly Cochrane
Administrative Law Judge
Division of Hearings and Appeals



State of Wisconsin\DIVISION OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS

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Madison, WI 53705-5400

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The preceding decision was sent to the following parties on May 3, 2016.

Division of Health Care Access and Accountability